

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution Passed by the 20th Legislature.

No. 1.—[H. J. R. No. 2.] Joint Resolution to amend Section 20 of Article 16, of the State Constitution.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas: That Section 20 of Article 16 of the Constitution be so amended as to read as follows, to-wit:

Section 20. The manufacture, sale and exchange of intoxicating liquors, except for medicinal, mechanical, sacramental and scientific purposes, is hereby prohibited in the State of Texas. The Legislature shall, at the first session held after the adoption of the amendment, enact necessary laws to put this provision into effect.

Section 2. The foregoing constitutional amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the State of Texas at an election to be held for that purpose on the first Thursday in August, 1887, at which election all voters favoring said proposed amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots, "For State Prohibition," and those voting against said amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots, "Against State Prohibition." The Governor of the State is hereby directed to issue the necessary publication for said election under the existing election laws of the State.

Approved, March 4, 1887.

No. 2.—[S. H. J. R. No. 1.] Joint Resolution to amend Section 24, Article 3, of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas: That Section 24, Article 3, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, be so amended as to hereafter read as follows:

Section 24. The members of the Legislature shall receive from the public treasury such compensation for their services as may be provided by law, not exceeding five dollars per day for the first ninety days of each session, and after that not exceeding two dollars per day for the remainder of the session. In addition to the per diem the members of each house shall be entitled to a mileage in going to and returning from the seat of government, which mileage shall not exceed five dollars for every twenty-five miles, the distance to be computed by the nearest and most direct route of travel by land, regardless of railways or water routes, and the Comptroller of the state shall prepare and preserve a table of distance to each county seat now or hereafter to be established; and by such table the mileage of each member shall be paid; but no member shall be entitled to mileage for any extra session that may be called within one day after the adjournment of a regular or called session.

Section 2. That the Governor of this State shall issue his proclamation ordering an election to be held on the first Thursday in August, A. D. 1887, on this amendment, in accordance with Article 17, Section 1, of the Constitution, and those voting for the adoption of this amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots, "For the amendment to Section 24, Article 3, of the Constitution," and those voting against the adoption of said amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots the words, "Against the amendment to Section 24, Article 3, of the Constitution."

Approved, March 8, 1887.

No. 4.—[H. J. R. No. 18.] Joint Resolution to amend Section 11, of Article 7, of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the legislature of the State of Texas: That Section 11, of Article 7, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, be so amended as to read as follows, to-wit:

Section 11. It is hereby declared that all lands and other property heretofore set apart and appropriated for the establishment and maintenance of the University of Texas, together with all the principal of the proceeds of sales of the same heretofore made or hereafter to be made, and all grants, donations and appropriations that may hereafter be made by the State of Texas, or from any other source, shall constitute and become a permanent university fund. And the same as realized and received into the treasury of the State (together with such sum belonging to the fund as may now be in the treasury) shall be invested in bonds of the United States of the State of Texas, the counties in said State, or in such other securities and under such restrictions as may be prescribed by law, and the State shall be responsible for all investments. And all the interest accruing thereon shall be subject to appropriation by the Legislature to accomplish the purpose declared in the foregoing section; provided, That the one-tenth of the alternate sections of the lands granted to railroads reserved by the State, which were set apart and appropriated to the establishment of the University of Texas by an act of the Legislature of February 11, 1858, entitled "An Act to establish the University of Texas," shall not be included in or constitute a part of the permanent university fund.

Section 2. The foregoing amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the State of Texas at an election to be held for that purpose on the first Thursday in August, 1887; at which election the voters favoring this amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots the words "For the amendment to Article 7," and those opposed the words "Against the amendment to Article 7." The Governor of the State is hereby directed to issue the necessary proclamation for said election under the laws of the State.

Approved, March 29, 1887.

No. 5.—[S. J. R. No. 3.] Joint Resolution proposing the submission of an amendment to Section 12, Article 3, of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Section 1.—Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas: That Section 12, Article 3, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, be so amended as hereafter to read as follows:

Section 12. The legislature shall provide for the assessment and collection of State and county taxes upon all property subject to taxation situated in unorganized counties; provided that such unorganized counties shall not be taxed to pay for improvements in the organized county to which they are attached for judicial purposes.

Section 2. Be it further resolved, That the above and foregoing amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas be submitted for adoption at an election ordered for that purpose to be held on the first Thursday in August, A. D. 1887, and the Governor of Texas is hereby authorized to issue his proclamation therefor according to law.

Approved April 2, 1887.

No. 6.—[S. J. R. No. 17.] Joint Resolution to amend Section Four, Article Six, of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas: That Section Four, Article Six, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, be so amended as to hereafter read as follows:

Section 4. In all elections by the people the vote shall be by ballot, and the Legislature shall provide for the numbering of tickets, and make such other regulations as may be necessary to detect and punish fraud and preserve the purity of the ballot-box; and the Legislature may provide by law for the registration of all voters in all cities containing a population of ten thousand inhabitants or more, and in such counties as the Legislature may deem advisable.

Section 2. That the Governor of this State shall issue his proclamation ordering an election to be held on the first Thursday in August, A. D. 1887, on this amendment, in accordance with Article Seventeen, Section One, of the Constitution; and those voting for the adoption of this amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots the words, "For the amendment to Section Four, Article Six, of the Constitution," and those voting against the adoption of said amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots the words, "Against the amendment to Section Four, Article Six, of the Constitution."

Approved, April 4, 1887.

No. 7.—[S. J. R. No. 26.] Joint Resolution to amend Article Five, of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas: That Article Five of the Constitution of the State of Texas shall be so amended as to hereafter read as follows:

ARTICLE FIVE.

Section 1. The judicial power of this State shall be vested in one Supreme Court, one Court of Appeals, in district courts, and in such inferior courts as may from time to time be created by general or special law.

Section 2. The Supreme Court shall consist of such number of justices, not less than five nor more than seven, as may from time to time be determined by the Legislature. Such justices shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State at a general election, and shall hold their offices for the term of six years.

Section 3. The chief justice and the associate justices of the Supreme Court who may be in office when this amendment goes into effect, together with a sufficient number to make the number of five, shall constitute the Supreme Court until such number shall be increased by law. Upon the adoption of this amendment the Governor shall appoint a sufficient number of justices of the Supreme Court, in addition to those who may be in office at the time, to make the number of five, who shall hold their offices until the next general election. The justices of the Supreme Court who may be in office when this amendment is adopted, shall continue to serve until their terms of office expire by the Constitution and laws under which they were elected.

Section 4. The justices of the Supreme Court shall select from their own number a presiding officer, who shall be called the chief justice, and who shall hold for such term and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the court. Provided, The chief justice who may be in office at the time when this amendment shall take effect shall be the chief justice of the Supreme Court hereby established until the expiration of his term of office under his former election or appointment.

Section 5. Each justice of the Supreme Court shall be a qualified voter, shall have arrived at the age of thirty years, and shall have been a practicing lawyer in this State, or to a judge of a district court therein, or such judge and lawyer together, at least seven years at the time of his election or appointment.

Section 6. Each justice of the Supreme Court shall receive an annual salary of not more than three thousand six hundred dollars.

Section 7. The Supreme Court shall have power, upon affidavit or otherwise, as by the court may be thought proper, to ascertain such matters of fact as may be necessary to the exercise of its jurisdiction.

Section 8. The Supreme Court shall have the power to make rules or prescribe for its own government, and the government of the other courts of the State over which it may have appellate jurisdiction: Provided, Such rules shall not be inconsistent with the laws of the State.

Section 9. The Supreme Court shall appoint a clerk for each place at which it may sit, who shall hold his office for four years, subject to removal by the court, and who shall give such bond as is or may be prescribed by law.

Section 10. There shall be elected by the qualified voters of each county a sheriff, who shall hold his office for two years, whose duties and compensation shall be prescribed by law.

Section 11. The Legislature shall provide for the election of district and county attorneys, and such other offices as may be deemed necessary to the due administration of justice, define their duties and fix their compensation. The district attorneys and county attorneys, who shall be in office at the time this amendment shall take effect, shall hold their offices until the expiration of their terms under the present Constitution and laws.

Section 12. The judicial districts in this State and the time of holding courts therein, shall remain as at present until otherwise provided by law.

Section 13. The criminal district court of Galveston and Harris Counties shall continue with the jurisdiction, organization, and district now existing until otherwise provided by law, and the Legislature may establish such other courts, embracing one or more counties, with such criminal jurisdiction as may be provided by law. The qualifications, salaries, and tenure of office of the judges of said courts shall be the same as for judges of the district court.

Section 14. The Legislature may confer upon the Supreme Court exclusive original jurisdiction to issue writs of mandamus and injunction against the heads of State departments, except as against the Governor.

COURT OF APPEALS.

Section 15. The Court of Appeals shall consist of three judges, who shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State at a general election, and who shall hold their offices for the term of six years. The judges of the Court of Appeals, or so many of them as there may be, who shall be in office at the time this amendment shall take effect, shall be judges of said court as hereby established, and shall hold their said offices until the expiration of their respective terms under their former election or appointment, and should there be at the adoption of this amendment less than three judges of said Court of Appeals, the Governor shall

appoint the requisite number of additional judges to constitute a court of three members, and the judges so appointed shall hold their office until the next general election.

Section 16. The several judges of the Court of Appeals shall possess the same qualifications and receive the same salary as justices of the Supreme Court. The judges shall select from their own number a presiding judge, who shall perform such duties and hold for such term as the court may prescribe. A majority of the court shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of two of the judges shall be necessary to a decision. The court shall sit at the same times and places as are prescribed for the Supreme Court. The court and the judges thereof shall have power to issue the writ of habeas corpus and all writs known to the law which may be necessary to the exercise of its jurisdiction or to enforce the same. They shall also have power by mandamus or otherwise to compel the district and other inferior courts to proceed with the trial of cases pending in said courts of which the Court of Appeals may have cognizance on appeal. The court shall also have power to ascertain such facts as may be necessary in the exercise of its jurisdiction.

Section 17. The Court of Appeals shall have appellate jurisdiction of criminal cases, with such exceptions and under such regulations as may be prescribed by law.

Section 18. The Court of Appeals shall appoint a clerk for each place at which it may sit, who shall hold his office for four years, subject to removal by the court, and who shall give such bond as is or may be prescribed by law.

DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 19. The State shall be divided into a convenient number of judicial districts, consisting of one or more counties. Regular terms of the court shall be held by the district judges at the county seat of each county in the district at least twice in each year, in such manner as may be prescribed by general or local law.

Section 20. There shall be a district judge for each judicial district, who shall be elected by the qualified voters of the district at a general election. He shall hold his office for the term of four years from the date of his election. The district judges who may be in office when this amendment takes effect shall hold their offices until the expiration of their terms under the present constitution and laws.

Section 21. Each district judge shall be a qualified voter and resident of the district, shall have arrived at the age of twenty-eight years, and shall have been a practicing lawyer in this State at least six years, and shall reside in his district during his term of office.

Section 22. The judges of the district courts shall receive an annual salary of twenty-five hundred dollars, which shall be paid as prescribed by law.

Section 23. The district courts shall be courts of general jurisdiction. They shall have original jurisdiction, both civil and criminal, of all cases and special proceedings of which exclusive jurisdiction is not conferred on some other court, and in civil cases such jurisdiction shall be exercised without regard to any distinction between law and equity. Contested elections and other special cases, where the right to resort to the courts arises only out of legislative action, may be referred by the Legislature to the district court, or other tribunal, with or without the right of appeal to the Supreme Court, as may be prescribed by law.

Section 24. The district court shall have appellate jurisdiction and such control over the inferior courts and tribunals in the county as may be prescribed by law.

Section 25. The district courts, and the judges thereof, shall have power to issue the writ of habeas corpus, and to render judgment therein, either in vacation or term time. They shall also have power to issue writs of mandamus, injunction, certiorari and all writs known to the law which may be necessary to the exercise of their jurisdiction, or to enforce the same.

Section 26. Any district judge shall have the power to hold a special term of the district court in any county of his district, under such circumstances and in such manner as may be directed by general or special law.

Section 27. There shall be a clerk of the district court of each county, who shall be elected by the qualified voters of the county, and who shall hold his office for two years, whose duties and compensation shall be prescribed by law.

Section 28. There shall be elected by the qualified voters of each county a sheriff, who shall hold his office for two years, whose duties and compensation shall be prescribed by law.

Section 29. The Legislature shall provide for the election of district and county attorneys, and such other offices as may be deemed necessary to the due administration of justice, define their duties and fix their compensation. The district attorneys and county attorneys, who shall be in office at the time this amendment shall take effect, shall hold their offices until the expiration of their terms under the present Constitution and laws.

Section 30. The judicial districts in this State and the time of holding courts therein, shall remain as at present until otherwise provided by law.

Section 31. The criminal district court of Galveston and Harris Counties shall continue with the jurisdiction, organization, and district now existing until otherwise provided by law, and the Legislature may establish such other courts, embracing one or more counties, with such criminal jurisdiction as may be provided by law. The qualifications, salaries, and tenure of office of the judges of said courts shall be the same as for judges of the district court.

Section 32.—Grand and petit juries in the district court shall be composed of twelve men, but the nine members of a grand jury shall be a quorum to transact business and present bills, and the legislature may pass laws authorizing less than the whole number of a petit jury to render a verdict in civil and misdemeanor cases.

Section 33.—All vacancies in the office of justice of the supreme court or court of appeals, or of judges of the district court, shall be filled by the governor by appointment for the unexpired term.

Section 34.—The legislature shall from time to time, by general or local law, establish county courts and such other inferior courts, and provide for their officers, with such jurisdiction and qualifications and powers as may be deemed expedient; provided, the judges and presiding officers of such courts shall be elected, and until such courts are provided, the district and other inferior courts now in existence, together with

their officers, shall continue and shall exercise the powers and jurisdiction now conferred on them, and appeals shall lie as at present, except that civil cases heretofore appealable to the court of appeals shall, until otherwise provided by law, be appealable to the supreme court, under the rules and regulations now prescribed for appeals to that court; provided, the court of appeals shall determine all civil cases pending before it at the time this amendment shall be declared a part of the constitution.

Section 35. No justice or judge shall sit in any case wherein he may be interested in the question to be decided, or where either of the parties may be connected with him by affinity or consanguinity within such degree as may be prescribed by law, or where he shall have been counsel in the case. When a justice of the Supreme Court, or of the Court of Appeals, shall be disqualified to hear and determine any case or cases in said court, the same shall be certified by such court to the Governor of the State, who shall immediately commission the requisite number of persons, learned in the law, for the trial and determination of such case or cases. When the judge of a district court is disqualified, the parties may, by consent, appoint a proper person to try the case, or upon their failure to do so a competent person may be appointed by the governor to try the case, in such manner as may be prescribed by law. The district judges may exchange districts, or hold courts for each other, when they may deem it expedient, and shall do so when directed by law.

Section 36. District clerks, sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, and other officers, provision for whose removal from office is not otherwise specially provided for, may be removed from office by the judges of the district courts, for incompetency, official misconduct, habitual drunkenness, or drunkenness which does not amount to habitual drunkenness, or other causes defined by law, upon the cause therefor being set forth in writing, and the finding of its truth by a jury. Vacancies in all the offices shall be filled as may be prescribed in the Constitution, or in the absence of constitutional provisions, then, in such manner as may be prescribed by law; and, until otherwise provided, vacancies in office shall be filled in the manner now prescribed.

Section 37. The Legislature shall not create any court inferior to the district court with jurisdiction of suits in behalf of the State to recover penalties, forfeitures, and escheats; of suits to recover damages for slander or defamation of character; of suits for divorce; or of suits for trial of title to land, or for the enforcement of liens thereon, except liens acquired by levy of process issued out of such court, or of civil cases wherein the amount in controversy exceeds one thousand dollars.

[Sec. 2.] Section 38. And it is further resolved, That the Governor be requested to submit to the vote of the State the foregoing proposed amendment to the Constitution at an election to be ordered on the first Tuesday in August, A. D. 1887, in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the State Constitution; and, at said election those desiring to vote for said amendment shall have written or printed upon their tickets the words, "For amendment of Article 5, relating to the judiciary," and those desiring to vote against said amendment shall have written or printed upon their tickets the words, "Against amendment of Article 5, relating to the judiciary."

Approved, April 4, 1887.

THE STATE OF TEXAS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

I, J. M. MOORE, Secretary of State of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing are true copies of the original resolutions adopted by the 20th Legislature of the State of Texas, authorizing the submission of the said several proposed constitutional amendments on the day therein named to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution in such cases made and provided.

Witness my official signature, and the seal of state affixed, at the city of Austin, this 25th day of April, A. D. 1887.

J. M. MOORE,
Secretary of State.

How Baking Powders are Made.

While rival companies are disputing as to what ingredients are to be found in the "best baking powder," the public will be interested in the following definition of these now indispensable articles, as given by Appleton's Cyclopaedia, the acknowledged American authority.

"The best baking powders are composed of bitartrate of potash (cream of tartar), tartaric acid, carbonate of ammonia, and soda bicarbonate, bound together by a little starch."

Unmistakably Insane.

A short time ago the Galveston News made mention of the arrest in that city of a man named Deminger, on a charge of lunacy. The News stated that he was from Austin and that he had at one time been in the asylum. An effort was made to learn something of the man here, but no one could be found who knew such a person as Deminger. Yesterday, however, Mr. O. A. Yancey, of Galveston, arrived in charge of Mr. Joseph A. Deminger, and it was learned that he was the man whom the News had designated as Deminger. The unfortunate man was conveyed to his home, 503 West Ninth street, but last night he became violent and unmanageable to such a degree that it was found necessary to place him under restraint, and he was accordingly taken to the station house and locked up for the night. He was in the asylum for some time last year, but was discharged last fall as cured. He will probably be returned to the asylum to-day. His malady takes the form of wild and gross imagining, and at times he becomes so violent that he is regarded as dangerous.

A leading real estate agent and private banker, Mr. Ira Brown, Chicago, Ill., writes: "I feel it my duty to say of St. Jacobs Oil that I lay on my back three months with rheumatism. I tried it, was cured, and have never been troubled since." Permanent cure.

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THE STAKED PLAIN.

Interesting Description of a Section Once Thought to be a Barren Waste.

ESTACADO, Crosby Co., May 2, 1887.
To the Editor of the Statesman:

The Llano Estacado! How many readers of this article, who were school boys and girls twenty-five or thirty years ago, remember being taught that the Llano Estacado was a great sandy plain, whose dreary wastes stretched from the interior of New Mexico down into Texas, and, as the maps of those days indicated, as far south as Mitchell and Taylor counties are now located?

"What is the meaning of Llano Estacado?" "A staked plain." "Why is it called a staked plain?" "Because the traders from Santa Fe placed a line of stakes across it to guide them in their trips to the settlements in the south-east."

This was the geography of a futile country a quarter of a century ago.

As the Indians were driven back the hardy pioneer pushed forward to rear his cabin and lay the foundation of a heritage for his children. These sandy wastes became more and more a myth, until now the section of country to which the name, Llano Estacado, is confined, is a great, grassy plateau, whose southern edge crosses the lower parts of Lubbock, Crosby and Dickens counties.

As the traveler approaches the plains he sees its whole outlines towering up before him, appearing like a mountain chain, without the appearance of peaks. Upon a nearer approach he finds what appeared to be mountains, is a tall, precipitous cliff, 200 to 300 feet high, stretching as far as the eye can see, from right to left, with a smooth, even top. At its plain only for a short distance, to end in the same precipitous manner as the outside cliffs. Occasionally a part of the bluff will be detached and stand out by itself, its top bearing the same table-top resemblance to the surrounding cliffs.

With great labor the traveler reaches the plain above, to find stretching before him a great, smooth, grassy, plateau, bringing to his mind that perhaps here the Creator of the universe had, at the creation, laid out a vast parade ground upon which to marshal the armies of Heaven; not a hillock, nor so much as a mole-hill, not a brush or shrub mars its smooth, grassy surface.

Here let me state, for the benefit of those who have never been upon a plain, that the vision is limited to a comparatively small range, owing to the rotundity of the earth's surface, very materially contracting the horizon. The distance at which the feet of a man approaching can first be seen is less than two miles. A peculiarity about a plain is that the surface, as it recedes from the observer, seems to rise, giving the appearance of one standing in a great basin.

There are upon the Llano Estacado what are called basins—saucer like depressions in the surface—covering from 5 to 300 acres. These are the receptacles for the water that falls upon the plains. The larger ones retain their water a great part of the year, providing drink for the herds of cattle and antelope that graze upon the luxuriant grasses of this section.

As the traveler continues his journey across the plains he has the mirage almost constantly in view. There before him, its waters stirred by the wind, lies a large lake. Upon its shore a forest invites the tired traveler to rest beneath its shade. This, his guide informs him, is no lake and forest, but the deceitful mirage. Further on he suddenly stays his footsteps, for there before him in the heavens, in very flesh and blood, are a herd of antelopes treading on air. Again his guides assure him that the antelopes are real, but that their elevated appearance is owing to the mirage.

A sunset upon the plains is a sight never to be forgotten. Poets may sing, and artists paint a sunset at sea, but sadness and loneliness that cannot be seen, often comes over the observer as he sees the good light sink into the dark deep waters of the sea, leaving behind no promise of a return. How different is a sunset on the plains! Phoebus drives his fiery horses adown the western sky, as if seeking rest upon the grassy and flower bedecked plain beneath, after the fatigues of his journey from the east.

There are no mountain or bold headlands whose dark sides are a forecast of the darkness soon to be cast over the scene. But a gradual mellowing of light, which is taken up and continued for a time after the fiery orb has set, by a sheen of gold, marking his resting place. So of gold, marking the change from sunlight to twilight comes on, that the lark ceases his song, and the chirp of the sparrow is heard as he seeks food for his young. Finally, night slowly draws her dark curtain over the tableau as if unwilling to shut out the beautiful sight from the face of nature. With a sense of pleasure you turn from the sight feeling assured that the god who has sought for his night's rest so flowery a couch will rise on the morrow with new and invigorated strength.

These plains are the natural home of the antelope; also, the fleet-footed mustang, descendants of the war-horses of the invading Spaniards whose first appearance struck terror to the hearts of the warriors of Montezuma.

At the brakes of the plains the hunter who seeks noble game is amply rewarded. Here in the deep gorges and canyons, live the black bear, panther, cougar, lobo and wild cat. In the level country back from the foot of the plains are deer, turkey and the Mexican or blue quail.

The skunk is the scourge of the plains. There are two varieties—the large striped skunk and the small black one. The small black skunk the cowboy fears more than at night he frequently finds its way into a camp, when, without warning, it attacks the sleeping camper, inflicting wounds upon the face and hands that have occasionally proven fatal.

Only a few days ago a skunk, near this place, entered a room where two little boys were sleeping upon the floor, and bit both of them; their cries brought their father into the room, when he too was bitten. The father and two sons were taken south of here, hunting for a madstone, and it is to be hoped they will be saved from a hydrophobic death.

On the plains one is constantly thrown in with the cowboy, that class of society so unjustly treated by ignorant writers. The cowboy following his daily avocation, riding bronchos or following in the wake of the wild stampede, cannot be judged by the world's standard of a gentleman. On an intimate acquaintance with them, one finds that true manhood



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can and does exist under so wild an exterior.

An incident which occurred near here aptly illustrates the courage and quick perception of the cowboy when in danger: A rounding-up outfit had with them a small tent, which was stretched and all crowded into it for protection against a storm coming up. During the night a rattlesnake made its presence known among the sleeping cowboys, immediately there was a rush, each one making an exit for himself with his knife through the sides of the tent. In the excitement one of the boys discovered that he had stepped on the snake. He quickly concluded that because it had not struck him, and that so much of its body was squirming around his legs, that he must be standing on it, near its head—and there he stood, in the darkness, with the incessant hum of its rattle sounding in his ears, until his companions returned, and, tearing the debris of the tent from around him, dispatched the snake.

I leave it to my readers to determine if one who would thus risk his own life to save that of his companions can be the villain the cowboy is so often portrayed.

R. P. S.

GATE CITY DOTS.

Over the Border—Grand Celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

To the Editor of The Statesman:

LAREDO, May 5.—To-day was a gala day in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Twenty-five years ago to-day the Emperor Maximilian, Gen. Majia and Gen. Miramon were captured at the battle of Puebla by Gen. Diaz, Escobedo and Saragoza, and soon after were taken out and shot.

Cinco de Mayo is looked upon by the descendants of Cortes and Montezuma as the most glorious day in the history of Mexico. They refer to it with pride, and never tire of extolling the heroism of Juarez, Diaz, Saragoza, Escobedo and the Mexican soldiers.

In order to keep the victory that they achieved over the combined armies of France and Austria, they spend large sums of money in celebrating Cinco de Mayo. To-day Nuevo Laredo was dressed in her holiday attire; all the principal buildings were covered with bunting and national flags; and at night the main plaza was beautifully illuminated with Chinese lanterns, torches, etc. At eleven p. m., when we left, the whole plaza was one blaze of light—fifteen hundred lanterns throwing their mellow lights on thousands of beautiful ladies and gallant young men, as they promenade along the boulevard to the sweet strains of music.

The custom house was tastefully decorated and illuminated. In front of the varanda was ornamented with large letters, and lit up in various colored lights, "Cinco de Mayo, 1862," while Roman candles and spinning wheels kept the crowd constantly gazing at them; while in front and across the plaza, the city hall was one blaze of variegated lights, and in front of the church, on the east side, sky-rockets caused the timid to stop as they went flying through the air.

In the evening the military, police and city officials paraded the principal streets, and at 7 p. m., the following gentlemen delivered addresses:

Senor Vincenti, B. Trevino and M. Ochoa, of Monterey; A. Cuena, El Puchito, D. T. Mr. J. G. Parra, of Matamoros, and Mr. Reyn